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CITY DOCUMENT.

[No. 33.]

THE PROGRESS OF PROVIDENCE. QI

A CENTENNIAL ADDRESS

TO THE

CITIZENS OF PROVIDENCE, R. I.

By HON. SAMUEL GREENE ARNOLD.

WITH A POEM,

By GEORGE WILLIAM PETTES.

DELIVERED JULY 4TH, 1876.



PROVIDENCE:

PROVIDENCE PRESS CO., PRINTERS TO THE CITY.

1876.



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ARNOLD, SAMUEL GREENE, 1821-1880.
...The progress of Providence. A centennial
address to the citizens of Providence, R.I.,
by Hon. Samuel Greene Arnold. With a poem, by
George William Pettes. Delivered July 4th,
1876. Providence, R.I., Providence press co.,
1876.
55p. (City doc. 1876. no.33)



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DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

NL 38-2295

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THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

[Approved July 10, 1876.]

RESOLVED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL HEREBY TENDER THEIR THANKS 1
HON. SAMUEL G. ARNOLD FOR THE ORATION DELIVERED BY HIM AT TH
CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENNIAL FOURTH OF JULY, AND ALSO TO GEORGE
W. PETTES, ESQ., FOR THE POEM RECITED BY HIM ON THE SAME OCCASIO

RESOLVED, THAT THE COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR SAID CELEBR
TION ARE HEREBY INSTRUCTED TO REQUEST A COPY OF SAID ORATION AN
POEM, AND CAUSE THE SAME TO BE PRINTED IN SUCH MANNER AS THE
MAY DEEM EXPEDIENT, FOR THE USE OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

A TRUE COPY: WITNESS,

SAMUEL W. BROWN CITY, CLERK.

3193

CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF
THE FOURTH OF JULY.

PUBLIC RESOLUTION PASSED BY CONGRESS AND APPROVED
BY THE PRESIDENT, MARCH 13, 1876.

Joint Resolution on the Celebration of the Centennial in the Several Counties or Towns.

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled :

That it be, and is hereby recommended by the Senate and House of Representatives to the people of the several States that they assemble in their several counties or towns on the approaching Centennial Anniversary of our National Independence, and that they cause to have delivered on such day an historical sketch of said county or town from its formation, and that a copy of said sketch may be filed, in print or manuscript, in the clerk's office of said county, and an additional copy, in print or manuscript, be filed in the office of the Librarian of Congress, to the intent that a complete record may thus be obtained of the progress of our institutions during the First Centennial of their existence.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND, &c.

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, JANUARY SESSION, A. D. 1876.

Joint Resolution on the Celebration of the Centennial in the Several Cities and Towns.

Resolved. The House of Representatives concurring therein, that in accordance with the recommendation of the National Congress, the Governor be requested to invite the people of the several towns and cities

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES

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of the state to assemble in their several localities on the approaching Centennial Anniversary of our National Independence, and cause to have delivered on such day, an historical sketch of said town or city from its formation, and to have one copy of said sketch, in print or in manuscript, filed in the clerk's office of said town or city, one copy in the office of the Secretary of State, and one copy in the office of the Librarian of Congress, to the intent that a complete record may thus be obtained of the progress of our institutions during the First Centennial of their existence; and that the Governor be requested to communicate this invitation forthwith to the several Town and City Councils in the State.

I certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a resolution passed by the General Assembly of the State aforesaid, on the 20th day of April A. D. 1876.

Witness my hand and the seal of the State, this 27th day
[L. s.] of April A. D. 1876.

JOSHUA M. ADDEMAN, Secretary of State.

In accordance with the request of the General Assembly, in relation to the celebration of the Fourth of July, by the preparation of historical sketches of the several towns and cities, to be delivered on that day, and copies of the same to be preserved for future reference, His Excellency Governor Lippitt caused to be prepared and sent to the several town and city councils of the state, a circular note in the following form:

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }
Providence, April 27th, 1876. }

To the Honorable Town Council of the Town of

GENTLEMEN :—I have the honor herewith to enclose a duly certified copy of a resolution passed by the General Assembly at its recent session, requesting me to invite the people of the several towns and cities of the state, to assemble in their several localities on the approaching Centennial Anniversary of our National Independence, and cause to have delivered on such day an historical sketch of said town or city from its formation.

By pursuing the course suggested by the resolution of the General Assembly, the people of the state will derive an amount of information which will be invaluable to the present generation, as showing the wonderful progress of the several towns and cities since their foundation.

It will also be of great value to future generations when the materials for such sketches now accessible will have been lost or destroyed by accident, or become more or less effaced and illegible from time.

Therefore, in pursuance of the request of the General Assembly, I respectfully and earnestly, through you, invite the people of your town to carry out the contemplated celebration on the fourth day of July next

HENRY LIPPITT, Governor.

A D D R E S S .

TO trace the causes that led to the American Revolution, to narrate the events of the struggle for independence, or to consider the effect which the establishment of "the great Republic" has had upon the fortunes of the race in other lands—these have been the usual and appropriate themes for discourse upon each return of our national anniversary. And where can we find more exalted or more exalting subjects for reflection? It is not the deed of a day, the events of a year, the changes of a century, that explain the condition of a nation. Else we might date from the fourth of July, 1776, the rise of the American people, and so far as we as a nation are concerned, we might disregard all prior history as completely as we do the years beyond the flood. But this we cannot do, for the primitive Briton, the resistless Roman, the invading Dane, the usurping Saxon, the conquering Norman, have all left their separate and distinguishable stamp upon the England of to-day. As from Cædmon to Chaucer, from Spenser to Shakspeare, from Milton to Macaulay, we trace the progress of our language and literature from the unintelligible Saxon to the English of our time; so the

THE HISTORY OF

ENGLAND

FROM THE CONQUEST OF THE ENGLISH BY WILLIAM THE FIRST, TO THE DEATH OF KING EDWARD THE FIRST, IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1307.

BY JOHN HALLAM, ESQ.

LONDON: PRINTED BY J. JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD, 1782.

THE HISTORY OF ENGLAND, FROM THE CONQUEST OF THE ENGLISH BY WILLIAM THE FIRST, TO THE DEATH OF KING EDWARD THE FIRST, IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1307. BY JOHN HALLAM, ESQ. LONDON: PRINTED BY J. JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD, 1782.

development of political ideas has its great eras, chiefly written in blood. From the fall of Boadicea to the landing of Hengist, from the death of Harold to the triumph at Runnymede, from the wars of the Roses to the rise of the Reformation, from the fields of Edgehill and Worcester, through the restoration and expulsion of the Stuarts down to the days of George III, we may trace the steady advance of those notions of society and of government which culminated in the act of an American Congress a century ago proclaiming us a united and independent people. When the barons of John assembled on that little islet in the Thames to wrest from their reluctant king the rights of Magna Charta, there were the same spirit, and the same purpose that prevailed nearly six centuries after in the Congress at Philadelphia, and the actors were the same in blood and lineage. The charging cry at Dunbar, "Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered," rang out a hundred and twenty-five years later from another Puritan camp on Bunker hill. So history repeats itself in the ever-recurring conflict of ideas, with the difference of time and place and people, and with this further difference in the result, that while in ancient times the principal characters in the historic drama were the conqueror, the conquered and the victim, these in modern days become the oppressor, the oppressed and the deliverer. Charles Stuart falls beneath Cromwell and Ireton, George III. yields to Washington and Greene, serfdom and slavery vanish before Romanoff and Lincoln.

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But we must turn from this wide field of history to one of narrower limits, to one so small that it seems insignificant to that class of minds which measures states only by the acre, as cloth by the yard; to those men who, to be consistent, should consider Daniel Lambert a greater man than Napoleon Bonaparte or the continent of Africa a richer possession than Athens in the days of Pericles. There are many just such men, and the materialistic tendency of our time is adding to their number. It is in vain to remind them that from one of the smallest states of antiquity arose the philosophy and the art that rule the world to-day. Judea should have been an empire and Bethlehem a Babylon to impress such minds with the grandeur of Hebrew poetry or the sublimity of Christian faith. But for those to whom ideas are more than acres, men greater than machinery, and moral worth a mightier influence than material wealth, there is a lesson to be learned from the subject to which the act of Congress and the resolutions of the General Assembly limit this discourse. And since what is homely and familiar sometimes receives a higher appreciation from being recognized abroad, hear what the historian of America has said of our little commonwealth,* that "had the territory of the state corresponded to the importance and singularity of the principles of its early existence the

* History of the United States, by George Bancroft, vol. 1, pp. 380. Boston 1867.

world would have been filled with wonder at the phenomena of its history." Hear too a less familiar voice from beyond the sea, a German writer of the philosophy of history. Reciting the principles of Roger Williams, their successful establishment in Rhode Island, and their subsequent triumph he says: "They have given laws to one quarter of the globe, and, dreaded for their moral influence, they stand in the background of every Democratic struggle in Europe."† It is of our ancestors, people of Providence, that these words were written, and of them and their descendants that I am called to speak.

To condense two hundred and forty years of history within an hour is simply impossible. We can only touch upon a few salient points, and illustrate the progress of Providence by a very few striking statistics. Passing over the disputed causes which led to the banishment of Roger Williams from Massachusetts, we come to the undisputed fact that there existed at that time a close alliance between the church and the State in the colony whence he fled, and that he severed that union at once and forever in the city which he founded. Poets had dreamed and philosophers had fancied a state of society where men were free and thought was untrammelled. Sir Thomas More and Sir Philip Sydney had written of such things: Utopias and Arcadias had their place in literature, but nowhere on the broad earth

† Introduction to the History of the XIX Century, G. G. Gervinus, Professor of History in the University of Heidelberg, London, 1833, p. 63.

had these ideas assumed a practical form till the father of Providence, the founder of Rhode Island, transferred them from the field of fiction to the domain of fact, and changed them from an improbable fancy to a positive law. It was a transformation in politics—the science of applied philosophy—more complete than that by which Bacon overthrew the system of Aristotle. It was a revolution the greatest that in these latter days had yet been seen. From out this modern Nazareth, whence no good thing could come, arose a light to enlighten the world. The “great Apostle of religious freedom” here first truly interpreted to those who sat in darkness the teachings of his mighty master. The independence of the mind had had its assertors, the freedom of the soul here found its champion. We begin, then, at the settlement of this city, with an idea that was novel and startling even amid the philosophical speculations of the seventeenth century, a great original idea which was to compass a continent, “give laws to one quarter of the globe,” and after the lapse of two centuries to become the universal property of the western world by being accepted in its completeness by that neighboring State to whose persecutions Rhode Island owed its origin. Roger Williams was the incarnation of the idea of soul liberty, the town of Providence became its organization. This is history enough if there were nought else to relate. Portsmouth, Newport, and Warwick soon followed with their

antinomian settlers to carry out the same principle of the underived independence of the soul, the accountability of man to his Maker alone in all religious concerns. After the union of the four original towns into one colony under the Parliamentary patent of 1643, confirmed and continued by the Royal charter of 1663, the history of the town becomes so included in that of the colony in all matters of general interest that it is difficult to divide them. The several towns, occupied chiefly with their own narrow interests present little to attract in their local administration, but spoke mainly through their representatives in the colonial assembly upon all subjects of general importance. It is there that we must look for most of the facts that make history, the progress of society, the will of the people expressed in action. To these records we must often refer in sketching the growth of Providence.

It was in June, 1636, that Roger Williams with five companions* crossed the Seekonk to Slate rock, where he was welcomed by the friendly Indians, and pursuing his way around the headland of Tockwotton, sailed up the Moshassuck, then a broad stream skirted by a dense forest on either shore. Attracted by a natural spring on the eastern bank, he landed near what is now the cove, and began the settlement which, in gratitude to his Supreme Deliverer he called Providence. He had already purchased a large tract of land from the natives,

* William Harris, John Smith, Francis Wickes, Thomas Angell, Joshua Verin.

which was at first divided with twelve others, "and such as the major part of us shall admit into the same fellowship of vote with us," thus constituting thirteen original proprietors of Providence.† The first division of land was made in 1638, in which fifty-four names appear as the owners of "home lots" extending from Main to Hope streets, besides which each person had a six acre lot assigned him in other parts of the purchase. The grantors could not sell their land to any but an inhabitant without consent of the town, and a penalty was imposed upon those who did not improve their lands. The government established by these primitive settlers was an anomaly in history. It was a pure democracy, which for the first time guarded jealously the rights of conscience. The inhabitants, "masters of families," incorporated themselves into a town and made an order that no man should be molested for his conscience. The people met monthly in town meeting and chose a clerk and treasurer at each meeting. The earliest-written compact that has been preserved is without date, but probably was adopted in 1637. It is signed by thirteen persons.* We have

† These were Roger Williams, Stukely Westcott, William Arnold, Thomas James, Robert Cole, John Throckmorton, William Harris, William Carpenter, Thomas Olney, Francis Weston, Richard Waterman, Ezekiel Holyman,

* "We whose names are hereunder, desirous to inhabit in the town of Providence, do promise to subject ourselves in active or passive obedience to all such orders or agreements as shall be made for public good of the body in an orderly way by the major assent of the present inhabitants, masters of families, incorporated together into a town fellowship and such others whom they shall admit

The first thing that I noticed when I stepped out of the car was the cold. It was a sharp, biting cold that seemed to penetrate my very bones. I shivered as I walked towards the entrance of the building, my hands tucked into my pockets. The air was thick with the scent of old books and the faint, sweet smell of incense. I had heard that the library was a place of great beauty and knowledge, but I had not realized how much it would captivate me. The architecture was a masterpiece of classical design, with high ceilings and ornate details. The walls were covered in bookshelves, filled with volumes of every size and shape. The floor was made of polished stone, reflecting the light from the chandeliers. I walked through the main hall, my eyes taking in the grandeur of the place. The air was so still, so quiet, that I could hear the soft rustle of the pages of the books. I felt a sense of peace and tranquility that I had never experienced before. I had come to this library for a specific purpose, but I found myself wandering through the aisles, lost in the vastness of the collection. The books were arranged in a logical order, but the sheer number of them was overwhelming. I had heard that this library was one of the best in the world, and now I understood why. It was a treasure trove of knowledge, a place where the minds of great scholars and thinkers had gathered. I felt a sense of awe and wonder as I explored the different sections. The history of the library was fascinating, with stories of the great men who had built it and the countless hours of study and research that had taken place here. I felt a sense of connection to the past, as if I were walking in the footsteps of the great minds of history. The library was not just a place of learning, it was a place of inspiration. It was a place where the mind could wander freely, where the imagination could run wild. I felt a sense of freedom and liberation that I had never felt before. I had found a place where I could truly learn and grow. I had found a place where I could truly belong.

not time to draw a picture of these primitive meetings held beneath the shade of some spreading tree, where the fathers of Providence discussed and decided the most delicate and difficult problems of practical politics, and reconciled the requirements of life with principles then unknown in popular legislation. The records are lost, and here and there only a fragment has been preserved by unfriendly hands to give a hint of those often stormy assemblies where there were no precedents to guide and only untried principles to be established by the dictates of common sense. Of these the case of Verin, reported by Winthrop, is well known, wherein liberty of conscience and the rights of woman were both involved with a most delicate question of family discipline. It is curious enough that one form of the subject now known under the general name of woman's rights, destined more than two centuries later to become a theme of popular agitation, should here be foreshadowed so early in Rhode Island, the source of so many novel ideas and the starting point of so many important movements.

Religious services had no doubt been held from the earliest settlement, but the first organized church was formed in 1638, the first Baptist church in America.

The growth of the town soon made a pure democracy

unto them, only in civil things." Signed by Richard Scott, William Reynolds, John Field, Chad Brown, John Warren, George Rickard, Edward Cope, Thomas Angell, Thomas Harris, Francis Wickes, Benedict Arnold, Joshua Winsor, William Wickenden.

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impracticable, and in 1640 five "disposers" were chosen to manage its affairs who were to meet monthly and to report at quarterly town meetings, when a new election was to be held. This system lasted for many years. Meanwhile the town had increased in forty years to about three hundred souls, when the first great calamity resulted in its almost complete destruction during Philip's war. Most of the inhabitants had fled to Newport for refuge. Only twenty-eight remained, among whom was Mr. Williams, who vainly attempted to dissuade the infuriated Indians from the attack. It was on the 29th of March, 1676. The north part of the town above Olney street, then the most settled portion, was utterly destroyed. Fifty-four buildings were burnt. But one house, now known as the Whipple house, on Abbott's lane, escaped. This house ought to be owned by the city, restored to its original plan, which was altered to its present form many years ago, and preserved as a perpetual memorial of the early days of Providence. In 1681, the General Assembly met in Providence for the first time under the new charter; but three years later (1684) the autumn sessions were appointed to be held alternately in Warwick and Providence. In the absence of any stated census, we can only infer the positive growth of the town from its relative wealth, as shown in various colonial assessments. The earliest of these was in 1647, to raise £100 as a gift to Mr. Williams for obtaining the charter. Of

this sum, Newport paid one-half, Portsmouth thirty and Providence twenty pounds. Four-fifths of the strength of the colony was then on the island. Warwick was at that time too feeble to assist. Twelve years later (1659) on a tax of fifty pounds, Newport paid two-thirds, Portsmouth one-fifth, and of the remaining two-fifths Providence paid eleven pounds, and Warwick nine pounds. Newport had doubled upon Portsmouth while Providence had gained upon the other two towns. Five years later (1664) six hundred pounds were voted, of which Newport was assessed two hundred and forty-nine, Providence and Portsmouth one hundred each, Warwick eighty, and the balance of seventy-one pounds upon the newer settlements in Narragansett and on Conanicut and Block Islands.

A comparison of the levies of two taxes, each of three hundred pounds, one in 1670, the other in 1678, fairly illustrates the ruin wrought by the war on the mainland towns. In the first of these, Newport was assessed one hundred and twenty-three pounds, Providence and Portsmouth fifty-one each, Warwick thirty-two, Kingstown sixteen, Block Island fifteen and Conanicut twelve pounds. In the latter, Newport was charged with one hundred and thirty-six pounds, Portsmouth sixty-eight, the other two islands, twenty-nine each, Providence ten pounds, Warwick eight, Kingstown sixteen, Greenwich and Westerly two each. Thus the two towns on Aquidneck paid over two-thirds of the

whole levy, and the three islands together paid seven-eighths of it, and the five mainland towns less than one-eighth, while the share of Providence was one-thirtieth. So great a disproportion never existed before or since.

Twenty years later (1698) this had disappeared in the reviving growth of the town, for on a tax of eight hundred pounds Providence was charged with one hundred and twenty-eight pounds, or about one-fifth of the whole. The number of enrolled militia in New England about 1688, according to returns made by Sir Edmond Andros, was something over thirteen thousand, of whom eight hundred were in Rhode Island, and of these one hundred and seventy-five, or more than one-fifth were in Providence. Twenty years later (1708), when the first census ever taken in the colony, was made by order of the Board of Trade, the force, including all males between sixteen and sixty years of age, was 1362. This had increased in 1730, when the next census was taken by the same authority, to 1900 men, and the population of the colony had grown from about 7,200 to 18,000. Up to this time Providence included the whole of the present county except Cumberland. It was now divided into four towns, and its limits were reduced to what are now included in the city and the towns of Cranston, Johnston and North Providence. In 1748 the colony had grown to over 34,000, of whom Newport had 4640, and Providence 3452, and was

gaining rapidly on the other towns. Seven years later (1755), the last census, under the orders of the home government, was taken in view of the war with France, which, on this continent, had already begun, although not yet formally declared. The colony had increased six thousand in that time, and the military force numbered 8262. Providence had 3159 inhabitants, and could equip 681 men. It had just been again reduced in territory by the incorporation of Cranston (1754). Johnston was set off in 1759, and the organization of North Providence, in 1765, reduced it to the limits which it retained till a few years ago, when the annexation of the Ninth and Tenth Wards commenced the era of enlargement. A census of the town taken at the close of 1767 showed the population to be 2958, of whom 911, occupying one hundred and two houses, were on the west side of the river. Two years later, (February, 1770,) an attempt was made still further to divide the town by incorporating the west side of the river as a separate town, under the name of Westminster, but the Assembly rejected the petition. The next general census was that of 1774, taken with much care, by order of the Assembly, one man being appointed for the purpose in each town. The entire population was nearly sixty thousand. Providence had 4321 inhabitants, 655 families, with 421 dwelling houses. The old market house, now "the City Building," had been built by lottery the year before. The increase in the

population had been very small since the census of 1748, owing to the divisions just mentioned. A quarter of a century had added less than nine hundred people, an annual increase of barely one per cent. But the country towns that had been set off since 1730 show a greater prosperity, numbering at this census nearly fifteen thousand, and the whole county of Providence considerably exceeded Newport county in population. At this census only those actually at home were counted. Seamen and other absentees were omitted.

Here on the threshold of the great struggle for independence we will pause in our summary of material progress to see what was engaging the attention of the little hamlet that had already done so much for mankind, and was now pledging its life-blood to accomplish yet more. From the earliest days of the colony to the close of the recent civil strife, the war record of the State has been a brilliant one. As early as 1655 in the Dutch war she did more than the New England Confederacy, from which she had been basely excluded. Her exposed condition, by reason of the Indians, fostered this feeling in the first instance, and long habit cultivated the martial spirit of the people till it became a second nature. Her maritime advantages favored commercial enterprise, and the two combined prepared her for those naval exploits which in after years shed so much glory on the State. The three Indian wars, the three wars with Holland (1652-8,

1667, 1672-4), and the two with France (1667, 1690), in the seventeenth century, the three Spanish (1702-13, 1739-48, 1762-3), and the three French wars (1702-13, 1744-8, 1754-63), of the eighteenth, had trained the American colonies to conflict and prepared them for the greater struggle about to come. At the outbreak of the fourth inter-colonial war, known as the "old French war," this colony, with less than forty thousand inhabitants and eighty-three hundred fighting men, sent fifteen hundred of these upon various naval expeditions, besides a regiment of eleven companies of infantry, seven hundred and fifty men under Col. Christopher Harris, who marched to the siege of Crown Point. Thus more than one-quarter of the effective force of the colony was at one time, on sea and land, in privateers, in the royal fleets, and in the camp, learning that stern lesson which was soon to redeem a continent. Is it surprising then that when the ordeal came the conduct of Rhode Island was prompt and decisive? It is said that small States are always plucky ones, and Rhode Island confirmed the historic truth. When the passage of the sugar act and the proposal of the stamp act were known in America, a special session of the General Assembly was called (July 30, 1764), and a committee for correspondence with the other colonies was appointed to devise measures to procure the repeal of the former, and to prevent the passage of the latter. The first case of armed resistance to the obnoxious

revenue acts took place at this time. H. B. M.'s schooner St. John was fired upon from the fort at Newport by order of two of the magistrates. "The rights of the colonies examined," a pamphlet by Gov. Hopkins, submitted to this Assembly for approval, was among the very earliest of those stirring appeals that were soon to summon the young men of America to arms. The next year occurred the second overt act against the British crown in the burning at Newport, (June 4, 1765), of a boat belonging to H. B. M.'s ship Maidstone, in revenge for the forcible impressment of the crew of a brig which had arrived that day from Africa. The passage of the stamp act (February 27, 1765), roused the spirit of resistance throughout America to fever heat. But amid all the acts of assemblies, and the resolutions of town meetings, none went so far or spoke so boldly the intentions of the people as those passed in Providence at a special town meeting (August 7, 1765), and adopted unanimously by the General Assembly (September 16). They pointed directly to an absolution of allegiance to the British crown, unless the grievances were removed. The day before the fatal one on which the act was to take effect, the Governors of all the colonies, but one, took the oath to sustain it. Samuel Ward, "the Governor of Rhode Island stood alone in his patriotic refusal," says Bancroft. Nor was it the last as it was not the first time that Rhode Island stood alone in the van of progress. Non-importation agreements were everywhere made. The repeal of the

odious act (February 22, 1766), came too late, coupled as it was with a declaratory act asserting the right of Parliament "to bind the colonies in all cases." Then came a new development of patriotic fervor instituted by the women of Providence. Eighteen young ladies of leading families in the town met at the house of Dr. Ephraim Bowen, (March 4, 1766), and from sunrise till night, employed the time in spinning flax. These "Daughters of Liberty," as they were called, resolved to use no more British goods, and to be consistent they omitted *tea* from the evening meal. So rapid was the growth of the association that their next meeting was held at the Court House. The "Sons of Liberty" were associations formed at this time in all the colonies to resist oppression, but to Providence belongs the exclusive honor of this union of her daughters for the same exalted purpose. This is the second time we have had occasion to notice that woman has come conspicuously to the front in the annals of Providence, when great principles were at stake. But we claim nothing more for our women than the same spirit of self-denial and lofty devotion that the sex has everywhere shown in the great crises of history. The last at the cross and the first at the sepulchre, the spirit and the blessing of the Son of God have ever rested in the heart of woman.

Side by side with the struggle for freedom grew the effort for a wider system of education. It was pro-

posed to establish four free public schools. This was voted down by the poorer class of people who would be most benefited by the movement. Still the measure was partially carried out, and a two-story brick building was erected (1768). The upper story was occupied for a private school, the lower, as a free school. Whipple hall, which afterwards became the first district school, was at this time chartered as a private school in the north part of the town, and all the schools were placed in charge of a committee of nine, of whom the Town Council formed a part. The next year a great stimulus was given to the educational movement in the town. Four years had passed since Rhode Island college was established at Warren, and the first class of seven students was about to graduate. Commencement day gave rise to the earliest legal holiday, in our history. A rivalry among the chief towns of the colony for the permanent location of what is now Brown University, resulted in its removal two years later (1774) to Providence. This now venerable institution, whose foundation was a protest against sectarianism in education, has become the honored head of a system of public and private schools, which for completeness of design, for perfection of detail, and for thoroughness of work, may safely challenge comparison with any other organized educational system in the world.

Hostility to the revenue acts of Great Britain became yearly more pronounced, and was evinced in acts of

greater boldness. H. B. M.'s armed sloop *Liberty* was sunk and her boats burnt (July 19, 1769), at Newport. The *St. John* had been fired upon. The *Maidstone's* boat was burnt. The *Liberty* was scuttled and all her boats burned. As yet no blood had been shed on either side. There were still hopes of a peaceable adjustment of difficulties. The year 1771 was one of unusual quietness. It was the lull before the storm. Narragansett Bay was the rendezvous of a British fleet of ten vessels of war, one of which, the schooner *Gaspee*, of eight guns, was destined to light the fire of successful revolution. The annoyances caused by the arbitrary seizure of coasters engaged in lawful trade, as well as of vessels that were properly amenable under the revenue acts, had become intolerable. The people of Providence, with some from Bristol, resolved on her destruction. On the night of the 9th of June, 1772, Capt. Abraham Whipple, with eight long boats of five oars each, captured and burnt the vessel. Lieut. Duddingston, the commander, was wounded in the fight, and his was the first British blood shed in the struggle for independence. In the flames of the burning *Gaspee* was consumed the last hope or wish for pardon, and the colony now prepared quietly, but firmly for the inevitable war. The Revolution had begun. Two years of increasing turmoil passed, when on the 17th of May, 1774, the townsmen assembled to recommend the last remaining act essential to a union

of the colonies—the Continental Congress. The idea of a Congress had become familiar to the people, but as yet no official action had been taken by any corporate body to carry it into practice. To the town of Providence is due the honor of priority in this national movement. A few weeks later the Assembly of Rhode Island was likewise the first to elect delegates to that Congress. At the same town meeting another illustrious action was accomplished. Six negroes had become the property of the town. It was voted that “it is unbecoming the character of freemen to enslave the said negroes,” and that “as personal liberty is an essential part of the natural rights of mankind,” a petition should be sent to the General Assembly to prohibit further importation of slaves, and to declare that all negroes born in the colony should be free after a certain age. A Continental Congress and freedom to the slave—glory enough for one town meeting in Providence, even if there were no more to add. And both were definitely acted upon by the Assembly four weeks later. Military organizations were at once perfected. The Providence county Artillery was named the “Cadet Company,” and officered as a regiment, and the First Light Infantry Company of one hundred men was chartered. To these were added in Providence in the autumn a grenadier, an artillery and a cavalry corps, and in the ensuing spring, upon news of the battle of Lexington, two of these were combined as the Providence

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United Train of Artillery. One thousand men marched from Providence to the scene of strife, and an "army of observation" of fifteen hundred men was voted by the Assembly to be raised at once. We cannot follow the course of our arms through the long conflict that ensued even if the part which Providence took were not so blended with that of the state as to be inseparable from it, and hence, perhaps, is inappropriate for this occasion. But two or three points must be referred to. One, the capture on the 15th of June, 1775, of the armed tender of the frigate *Rose* by the war sloop of the colony, commanded by Capt. Whipple, who on that occasion had the honor of discharging the first gun upon the ocean at any part of his Majesty's navy in the American Revolution. It was then that there occurred between the two commanders that terse correspondence of Spartan brevity and directness—"You, Abraham Whipple, on the 10th June, 1772, burned His Majesty's vessel, the *Gaspee*, and I will hang you at the yard arm. JAMES WALLACE." "Sir James Wallace. Sir: Always catch a man before you hang him. ABRAHAM WHIPPLE." The affair of the *Gaspee* three years before, was the true "Lexington of the seas," and this of the *Rose* tender was the Bunker Hill. The colony at once ordered two war vessels to be built. This was the commencement of the American navy. The harbor was fortified at Field's and Fox Points, and a beacon was erected on Prospect hill. Congress, at

the suggestion of Rhode Island, organized a Continental navy, and two of the frigates, the Warren of thirty-two and the Providence of twenty-eight guns, were built in Providence and launched in May, 1776. Esek Hopkins was commander of the first American fleet which sailed February 17, 1776, and captured Nassau, March 3d. The last Colonial Assembly met in Providence, May 1, 1776, and on the 4th of May passed the final act abjuring allegiance to the British crown—a declaration of Independence which constitutes Rhode Island, by two months, the oldest independent State in America. The four delegates from this town to that immortal Assembly were Dr. Jonathan Arnold, Amos Atwell, John Brown and John Smith. The Act of Independence is in the handwriting of Dr. Arnold, afterwards a member of the Continental Congress. The occupation of Newport by the British troops caused the sessions of the Assembly to be held in Providence for the next four years. Congress proposed a convention of the New England States to be held in Providence, to consider the questions of currency, and how to sustain the national credit. This convention (December 27) opposed the issue of paper money, and advised that taxation and loans at five per cent. be adopted, measures that unfortunately for the country, and especially for this State, were not carried into effect. At the close of the war, Providence was the rendezvous of the French army under Rochambeau. The camp of the second

division may be traced on the west side of the Pawtucket road extending for some distance above North street. The proclamation of peace was celebrated in Providence with great formality and rejoicing. A sermon by Rev. Enos Hitchcock and an oration by Hon. Asher Robbins in the now venerable church where we are to-day assembled, formed part of the proceedings (April 25, 1783). Even more jubilant were the people of Providence when the ninth State, adopting the new Constitution, rendered possible the formation of the American Union. Providence and other seaports of the State were strongly Federal, while the country towns were as strongly of the State Rights party. When two more States gave in their adhesion the rejoicings were renewed, and so violent was party spirit in those days that serious disturbances occurred, and the town was at one time threatened (July 4, 1788,) with an assault from the excited country people. Through the bitter contest which for nearly three years distracted the State, Providence stood firmly for the Union, and at last, when, by a close vote, the Federal Constitution was finally adopted (May 29, 1790,) in the Convention at Newport, "the stillness of the Sabbath morning was broken by the joyful roar of artillery."

With the close of the war came the revival of commerce. The news of the ratification of peace was received at Providence by a vessel direct from London (Dec. 2, 1783). In 1787, the trade began with China

and the East Indies, which for more than half a century brought great wealth to our merchants. A rolling and slitting mill to prepare iron to be made into nails, was soon after established in Providence. "Not a hob-nail should be manufactured in America," had been the threat, to accomplish which those repressive measures that provoked resistance in the colonies had been devised. But this had proved a vain threat, for as early as 1721, a nail factory had been started at Newport, and in 1777, it is said, that the first cold cut nail in the world was made by Jeremiah Wilkinson, of Cumberland. Hemp duck was also made here as early as 1722, encouraged by a bounty from the General Assembly. The spinning of flax was a universal domestic occupation among women of all conditions of life, and to encourage its cultivation was the special object of the "Daughters of Liberty" before mentioned. At that time a paper mill was established (1766) at Olneyville. The manufacture of firearms, and of steel, and the casting of heavy cannon became an active industry in Providence and its vicinity, shortly before the Revolution. The troops were supplied mainly with home-made muskets, as well as artillery. Saltpetre works were set up in all the towns during the war. Whipple Hall and the brick school-house on Meeting street were converted into laboratories. Arts gave place to arms, when University Hall was used for barracks and the college campus became a drill ground. This class of industry closed

with the war, to be revived in our own day on a grander scale. Homespun clothes were generally worn and American woollen cloths were preferred to foreign fabrics. A people who in their hostility to the Stamp Act had denied themselves lamb or mutton, in order to foster the increase of wool, and had proscribed tea as a beverage in their opposition to a trifling tax, were not long to be kept down even by the depressing condition of affairs in which the close of the Revolution found them. Yet how severe was that depression it would be difficult to portray. Nothing like it has since been seen. A crushing debt, a yet more crushing flood of vitiated currency, repudiation, exhaustion, and in the sad case of Rhode Island, utter isolation, bitter factions within the State, aversion and contempt outside; poverty everywhere; distress universal, while almost the only gleam of light that breaks upon the dark picture is to be found in the willing industry of the people assuming a systematic form in the incorporation (March, 1789) of the "Providence Association of Mechanics and Manufacturers." To develop the resources of the town by organizing its industry and giving a united and intelligent direction to its scattered forces, was the purpose of this Association; and nobly was it achieved. The cotton manufacture had just been introduced. Daniel Anthony, Andrew Dexter and Lewis Peck, as co-partners, commenced the business of manufacturing jeans in the chambers of the old market house (1787).

The first spinning jenny built in the United States, was made by them, and had twenty-eight spindles. Such was the modest birth of the mighty business which now sends its textile fabrics to every quarter of the earth. A few thousand pounds of the raw material imported chiefly from Surinam, (for the cotton plant had not then been introduced to become the staple of our South Atlantic and Gulf States), then sufficed for the annual consumption of a business which last year required a quarter of a million of bales, or nearly fifty thousand tons of raw cotton, and which sent out from this market alone, in but one branch of the cotton manufacture, the single article of print cloths, over 3,300,000 pieces of forty yards each, or 132,000,000 yards—enough to girt three times the entire circumference of the globe. The value of the print work alone upon this immense product was nearly four millions of dollars. Three years later (1790) this machinery was removed to North Providence, where the arrival of Samuel Slater, with his improved machinery, from England, began the successful manufacture of cotton cloth in America. Calendering commenced in Providence, in 1788, and calico printing, already started in East Greenwich, was introduced at Providence in 1794. Between the close of the war and the end of the century, most of the business pursuits of the present day had their humble origin. A few have quite disappeared after a brief struggle for profitable existence, but far more have been added.

Many have transferred their sphere of active operation beyond the limits of the city, while owned and managed by residents of Providence. Most of the vast mechanical and manufacturing establishments that have built up the large towns and villages on the Blackstone and Pawtuxet, making these valleys great hives of industry, and an almost unbroken succession of towns, are of this character. Our twenty-eight spindles have grown to be two millions, of which but a small portion are operated within the city.*

Down to the time of the Revolution the growth of churches, like that of population, was extremely slow. At that period there were but five in Providence. The First Baptist Church, already referred to, was contemporary with the settlement of the town, and after two changes in its place of worship, erected this beautiful edifice, which last year celebrated its centennial. The Friends' Society, established in 1701, built on the present site in Meeting street, in 1726. St. John's, Episcopal, was formed in 1722, and the original church was succeeded by the present one, on the same spot, in 1811. With these were two Congregational churches,

* By the census returns for 1875, there were in Providence and Kent counties 155,805 spindles employed in woolen manufacture, and 1,504,933 on cotton goods. These mills are mainly owned and managed in this city. The mills owned here, but situated out of the State, and which, therefore, do not appear in the Rhode Island census returns, would swell the number of spindles beyond two millions. The spindles now in the city limits employed on woolen goods, number 39,374, on cotton 110,879, being in round numbers 150,000, and the value of their joint product was over six millions of dollars.

the first formed in 1720, the second in 1744, which latter built on the site of the present church, erected in 1808 on Broad street. The former built in 1723, on Benefit street, where they remained for seventy years, on the corner of College street, and then built on their present site, corner of Benevolent street, and rebuilt after a fire in 1814. The old building became what was known in our day as "the old town house," on the site of the new court house. And here I may say, in passing, that no better illustration can be given of the difference between the ancient town and the modern city of Providence than is presented by the contrast between these two buildings—one poor, plain and simple, the other rich, elegant and ornate. A century ago there were five churches to 4,321 people, or one to 864. To-day there are seventy-five churches, of which eighteen are Baptist, one Friend, eight Congregational, eleven Episcopal, of the denominations existing here in colonial days, and thirty-seven of other denominations, all of which, except the First Methodist (1798), were organized since 1816.* With 101,000 inhabitants the proportion is now one to 1,346.

In 1791, the Providence Bank, the oldest in the State, was incorporated with a capital of half a million of dollars. It was modelled after the Bank of North

* There are eleven Methodist, ten Roman Catholic, three Unitarian, two Presbyterian, two Universalist, two Hebrew, one Swedenborgian, one Latter Day Saints, one African Union Church, and one Mariner's Bethel.

America in Philadelphia, that monument of the genius of Robert Morris, and the first in the country to issue bills redeemable in specie on presentation. To-day Providence has thirty-eight banks, with over eighteen millions of capital, four millions of which have been added within the last sixteen years. Providence has long ranked as the second city in the United States in the number of its banks, and is now the third in the amount of its banking capital. Besides these thirty-eight banks, there are now eleven Savings banks in the city, with an aggregate deposit of twenty-seven millions. The first of these in the State and one of the oldest in the world (for savings institutions were established in Europe only two years prior to their introduction in America), is the Providence Institution for Savings, incorporated in 1819, and whose deposits now exceed eight millions of dollars.

Iron, as has been seen, was early wrought in Rhode Island, and has now become a vast industry in this city, the product of Providence in this metal alone amounting in the last year to eight and a half millions of dollars. In the manufacture of screws, Providence leads the world, and is little behind in that of arms; while in the infinite variety of tools and machinery there is perhaps no city on earth that can rival it, although some surpass it in the value of certain special products. In jewelry there is but one city in America (Newark, N. J.) that exceeds this in the value which our more

than one hundred and fifty firms engaged in that manufacture produce, and which last year amounted to nearly six millions of dollars.* In silver ware Providence has the largest manufactory in the world. Forty-five years ago the late Jabez Gorham began to make silver spoons, employing ten or twelve men. His business prospered, and was gradually extended till in 1847 he introduced steam power, and was the first man who ever employed steam or horse power in the working of silver. The Gorham Manufacturing Company's products are now known and sold all over the world. The five stories of their great establishment include over three acres of flooring, and their working force, when in full operation, is over four hundred men. There are some significant facts connected with the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, which serve to show the relative importance of this city in the industrial summary of the country. One is that in the three principal buildings Providence occupies the central and most conspicuous place. We all know the man who commands Presidents and Emperors, and they obey him—who says to Dom Pedro, "Come," and he cometh, and to President Grant "Do this," and he doeth it, and we have seen the mighty engine that from the centre of Machinery Hall moves fourteen acres of the world's most cunning industry. The Corliss engine

* The exact value of the product of jewelry manufactured in Providence in 1875, by the census returns, was \$5,933,629.

proudly sustains the supremacy of Providence amid the marvels of both hemispheres. Facing the central area of the main exhibition building, the Gorham Manufacturing Company have their splendid show of silver ware around the most superb specimen of the craftsman's art that has ever adorned any exposition in modern times. Under the central dome of Agricultural Hall, the Rumford Chemical Works present an elaborate and attractive display of their varied and important products, arresting the eye as a prominent object among the exhibits of all the world. And when we visit the Women's Pavilion we shall see that of all the rich embroidery there displayed none surpasses that shown by the Providence Employment Society, and shall learn that little Rhode Island ranks as the fifth State in the amount of its contributions to the funds of this department, being surpassed only by New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Massachusetts. A city which occupies these positions in the greatest Exposition of the century, has no cause to shun comparison between its past and its present.

In the history of Providence the second crushing calamity occurred one hundred and forty years after the first, in the great gale of 1815, which swept all the warehouses on either side below the bridge, destroyed a large part of the shipping in port, and many important buildings. But this disaster now appears as a blessing in disguise, since from it resulted the first per-

manent improvement in the place, the widening of Weybosset bridge, the laying out of South and West Water streets, Canal street and the Cove basin. Street lamps were introduced in 1821, and these were superseded in 1848 by the general adoption of coal gas. The Arcade, with its elegant Ionic colonnade of granite monoliths, erected in 1828, was the forerunner of a new order of things, in which architectural taste and substantial structures were to replace the low frame buildings of a country town. But it was not till 1841 that this desirable change was fairly begun by Mr. Hezekiah Sabin, soon followed by others, till the Westminster street of to-day has come to contrast with the same thoroughfare of the olden times as do the splendors of Munich with the antique quaintness of a German village. At length the old form of town government was outgrown. A serious riot in September, 1831, which continued for four nights, in which seventeen houses were destroyed by the mob, and five lives were lost, was suppressed by military force. Stimulated by this event Providence adopted a city charter, and under the mayoralty of Samuel W. Brigham, in June, 1832, entered upon a new career of progress. But by far the greatest event, in its bearing upon the prosperity of Providence was the introduction of water, which after being four times defeated by the popular vote, was finally adopted in 1869. The work commenced the next year, and the water was first intro-

duced from the Pawtuxet river in November, 1871. The question whether Providence was to become a metropolis of trade and manufactures or continue as a secondary city, was thus settled in favor of progress. The stimulus given in the right direction was immediate and immense. The overflow of population soon required the city limits to be extended, and the annexation of the Ninth and Tenth Wards caused an increase of forty-six per cent. from the census of 1870 to that of 1875, a showing which no other city in the country can equal.

That the city of Providence has its future in its own hands is apparent. With the vast wealth and accumulated industries of a century at its disposal; with the result which this latest measure of improvement has produced as an encouragement; and with the experience of other less favored seaports as a guide, there would seem to be the ability and the inducement to take the one remaining step necessary to secure the supremacy which nature indicates for the head waters of Narragansett Bay. While our Northern and Western railroad connections are already very large and are rapidly reaching their requisite extension, there remains only the improvement of the harbor and adjacent waters of the bay, which can be made at comparatively small expense, to make Providence the commercial emporium of New England. There is no mere fancy in this idea. It is an absolute fact, attested by the

history of Glasgow, and foreshadowed by the opinions of those who have thought long and carefully on the subject. It is a simple question of engineering and of enterprise, and it will be accomplished. When Providence had twelve thousand inhabitants, as it had within the lifetime of many of us who do not yet account ourselves as old, had some seer foretold that the Centennial of the nation would see the quiet town transformed into the growing city starting upon its second hundred thousand of population, it would have seemed a far more startling statement than this with which we now close the Centennial Address—that the child is already born who will see more than half a million of people within our city, which will then be the commercial metropolis of New England.

P O E M.

BY

GEORGE WILLIAM PETTES.

P O E M .

ONCE on a time, as modern legends say,
A parson, journeying his accustomed way
Descried a storm-cloud gathering o'er his head,
The menaced promise of an hour of dread.
Then blew the winds and broke the thunder blast,
The lightning frolicked and the rain fell fast,
When, as he neared the church, his purposed bound,
The fire-flash striking, felled him to the ground.
Stunned, but not injured beyond quick repair
He rose and hastened to the temple where
Though for his sake solicitously stirred,
His flock assembled to receive the Word.
Wearied and shattered, frightened and perplexed,
He spoke a preface, ere he named his text,
In which he lauded the impulsive play
Of the fleet fluid in its special way ;
Thought it, administered for nervous ills
Not out of place, or given for ague chills ;
But when applied with such a telling force
As to upset a rider and his horse
It might be healthful, but his choice would be
To pass a life of equanimity ;

And that his accident would hinder speech,
That in their council he would fear to teach,
Save that he was a native born and bred,
Whose heart was right, though half his wit had sped.
In like regard, my Pegasus and I
Charged with our daily liability,
Were pressing on through fields of love and fame
Not fearing danger when—your letter came.
Something recovered from the first effect
Of the explosive, earnest dialect
That quick ignored a speculative lode,
And claimed a Poem, not an Orphic ode;
I thought, what can be done, what shall I say
To those who wait on that Centennial day?
I'll tell them of my jealous fear, and then
I'll claim my birthright of Rhode Island men;
I'll proudly say, "This is *my* native State,
My heart is loyal as her fame is great;"
That the light gambols of my honest Muse
Rhode Island men will suffer and excuse.

There is a word most popular of late
In use alike by Fashion, Church, and State,
Whose literal significations are
T' improve the system and its faults repair;
To change from bad to better, not to trade
One sin developed for one newly made.
"REFORM!" the modern Politicians shout;
"Condemn the blunder, turn the blunderer out."
"REFORM!" the Priest exclaims; "dispense with creeds:
Let dogmas yield to grand heroic deeds."

"REFORM!" Society demands, and names
The barriers thwarting her ambitious claims.

A word must designate the party play :
To-day, Reform ; the Tariff, yesterday.
" James and Reform ! " on blood-red banners flies ;
" John and Reform ! " a green ground occupies ;
" Charles and Reform ! " an independent few
In Truth's great cause, announce on heavenly blue.

Now, while 't is plain, James is the very man
To change all nature as none other can ;
While John's experience and transcendent worth
Fit him alone to rule the solid earth ;
While Charles exultant, wears perfection's crown
And justly overawes both James and John ;
While all defenders of green, red, and blue
Desire Reform (at least, they say they do) ;
Each one discovers that his neighbor's creed
Is but the token of some damning deed ;
That " foul corruption " festers in his brain,
And death and darkness follow in his train.

On the same tocsin it was rung of yore,—
This ancient chime ; we've heard it all before ;
With the next panic, in the next campaign,
Fresh, as of old, we 'll hear it all again.
'T is but the nation's farce ; what now we know
Of weak foundations, we knew long ago ;
But still we, passive, build upon the sand,
And look to see the superstructure stand.

James wrote his friends of an initial scheme
That died long since,—its memory is a dream.

A shrewd official hunts the letter up,
Finds acrid poison in its mouldy cup,
Howls his discovery to all mankind
And calls his witnesses from farthest Ind.
"Investigation!" Press and Place demand;
"Investigation!" rings throughout the land.
Mountains are moved, the depths of ocean stirred
T' explain the mystery of a phrase or word;
While James distracted, ceases day nor night
To rue the hour in which he dared to write.

John once paraded with a temperance league
And, after, took a glass with Marshal Teague:
Hobnobbed with Richard, kissed Mike's little boy;
Gave Tim, the bricklayer, a day's employ.
Oh! better far that Dick and Mike and Tim
Had ne'er been born, or ne'er been known to him.
Better that gill of whiskey had been made
To pay the rate that Government has paid.
The strict teetotallers of many years,
Who moisten pledges with canonic tears,
Have read John's secret, and, from every pump
Stand ready on his theories to jump.

Charles, college-bred, in youth essayed to speak
Sophoclean stanzas in their native Greek;
With Virgil journeyed, and with Horace sang
The odes which erst from Sabine villa rang.
He saw the tall Sallustian gardens wave,
And read their moral at the historian's grave.
Familiar with the deeds of every age,
Patriot and seer, philosopher and sage,
Th' eternal law to him unfolds the plan

That guides and governs Nature's nobleman.
Upright in business, true to every trust,
By grand consent his surname is, "The Just."
Proudly he wears his honors, fairly won—
What room for *such* a man in Washington?

Time was that men, somewhat insanely, thought
They had a right to property they bought;
That such as had no land or titled sway
Should not make laws to take their own away;
That no rash stranger, in Kilkenny coat,
Should land one day, and on the morrow vote.
They built the colleges, endowed the schools,
And felt that aliens should not make the rules.
But when Reform her brazen trombone blew,
And heralded the doctrines that were new,
Partly from cowardice, but more from pride,
The men who should have stayed her, stood aside.
Onward she passed,—with joy the showman feels,
When thousand idiots dog his chariot wheels;
No lack of leaders, 'mong the motley crowd
Who waved their caps, and called her name aloud.
Later, the programme has been much the same;
All now have grown familiar with her name.
If men are wanted to advance her cause,
To prate of service, as they break the laws,
The time is quite prolific in her need;
It raised up Sweeny; the fat cherub, Tweed;
It gave them lawyers to defend their fraud;
It gave them ships to waft them safe abroad;
It gives their faithful parasites to stand
Within the loftiest temples of the land.

The modern game, in which reformers play,
Is not progressive, owns no gradual sway.
Iconoclastic in its quick pretence,
It holds no converse with mere common-sense.
The negro thanks the people who have freed
The negro race. *Now*, let the negro *lead*.
You have done nothing for his sweet content
Until you make the negro, President.
Of course, you sandwich him in railroad cars,
But mix him lively in your caucus jars.
You once did wrong; now do much more than right;
For what the Lord made black, Reform makes white.

When Luther turned reformer, fought the Pope,
And gave the Christian world a conscious hope,
His was no cheap religion, to be bought
By only doing what good morals taught.
He had not flung his glove before the face
Of king and emperor, to purchase grace.
He knew the charter that salvation brings
Bears the true signet of the King of Kings.
Modern reformers must be very *good*,
And live on moral, intellectual food.
Their ethics compass a familiar plan:
They do not need the Saviour, but the Man;
A generous movement made, Christ is not named
To bless the enterprise in which 't is framed.
'T is quite sufficient that *they* go on guard,
And Heaven must give their prowess its reward;
As if a deed could heavenward be *driven*
Without the high authority of Heaven!
Still, in their temples, all unseen, He pleads;
Still sweetly ministers, to supply their needs.
They think, at times, He calls on them to come:

At times they think He speaks of Heaven and Home.
Alas! they worship in a Church so broad
That, from its transept, none can hear the Lord.

The pleasant, secular preaching of the day
(If that be preaching, that is words at play)
Contents not those with consecration rife
Whose souls are hungry for the Bread of Life.
All things in time and in their proper place:
On week-days pitch the ball, describe the race.
Talk of conventions, journeys, parties, rides,
Of picnics, concerts, everything besides
On week-day evenings, in the lecture hall,
And drew the happy moral from them all;
But on the Sabbath of the Lord thy God,
Remember *Him*, and sound His praise abroad.

Fashion is full of change that is not gain,—
Would, that, like Lear, she'd part with half her train,—
Her love is law, as all her followers find,
E'en to the half afflicted, half resigned,
Who, while decision's instant, august right
Is shut in panniers from her lover's sight,
Smooths the black ruffles of a dark despair,
And hangs the gleaming bow of promise there.

Centuries ago, the Dane to Osric said,
"Your bonnet to its use; 't is for the head."
If Hamlet, thinking the court fop to save
From influenza, the true order gave,
For what *we* call a *bonnet*, no one knows
Antiphrasis more actual to propose.
A bonnet *was* a *covering*, of felt,
Of Danish kirlin, or of Scottish kelt,

Of Genoa velvet, or of Gallic silk,
Of satin, cr pe, with trimmings of that ilk.
From hoods like hods, from Leghorn lanes, the face
Came careful forth, all canopied in lace.
Now, no opposing fabric intervenes
Between our eyes and all the summit scenes.
Far in the background we behold emerge
'Mong woodbines clambering to its loftiest verge
The shield of chips, that lifts itself in air,
Bolted, by magic, to the hindmost hair.

Remembering all our wonder at the show,
We place the costume of not long ago
In size and contour as St. Peter's dome,
By the stern, modern pull-back of our home;
The forty skirts, whose substitute is one,
The mighty hoops, whose substitute is none.
Deem it not stylish to diminish all
The requisites for party, street, or ball;
Boot-heels are higher, gloves as long again,
Where once was worn one bracelet, there are ten,
As many silver bands doth fashion claim
As there are letters in my darling's name.
And where once rested an encircling zone
A narrow silken belt of tractile tone,
Note, as the acme of reforming taste,
The monster trunk-strap round my lady's waist!

While dullness broods o'er all the Christian climes
And Faith is earnest in the "better times,"
Long promised, long deferred, the star of Hope
Seems distant still in this new Century's scope.
Patience! Perhaps for us the hour is near

In which Reform shall run her new career ;
When felons, resident in foreign lands,
Are homeward hurled, if Government demands ;
When no cheap pardons, by weak President,
Are to convicted counterfeiters sent ;
When no trained gambler with his stocks or dice
Plays in the Nation's halls his game of vice ;
When no brief visitor or common clown
Pretends to change the laws, or vote them down ;
When he who sells a vote or he who buys
Shall suffer scorn and slight from people's eyes ;
When, in high places, crime does not require
Investigation till the laws expire ;
When, if a saddened secretary's wife
Avows the venal business of her life,
She cannot trample out the mischief done
In Fort Sill contracts, with boots number *one* ;
When, 'stead of green slips, handled to a brown,
With silver tablets we are loaded down ;
When the long greenbacks we once loved to hold
Shall be transmuted into circlet gold ;
When manly women shall have all they ask,
And leave their own, to do their husband's task ;
When all the Bridgets and the Margaret Anns
March to the polls, and beat their big tin pans ;
When men may smoke, whene'er they deem it meet
In proper places,—never in the street ;
When horse-car tourists shall take thought, and stop
Not on th' ascending grade, but at the top ;
When meddling pastors don't escape the stocks,
And quacks are shot for lettering nature's rocks ;
When slashing Pomeroy, whom the law's abuse
By cheap reformers, would at once let loose

To thin, like Herod of the Jewry wrong,
The surplus population while 't is young ;
Shall swing, like Haman, forty cubits high,
And all such imps shall bear him company ;
When some rare justice visits Plymouth Church,
That left a senior member in the lurch,
Who, in his zealous love for virtuous acts,
Contrives at last to reach the " bottom facts."

What of the City that, from year to year,
Honors its knight without reproach or fear?
Who gave the Union, at her quick command,
Captains, to lead the armies of the land?
Who march to-day where Earth's insignia blaze,
And fear no challenge, though the Nations gaze?

Be not oppressed, fair City, noble State,
That landed neighbors will not call you great ;
'T is *men* you boast, not aeres. Men, who hold
Fast by the precepts that their sires have told.
Let others count their ever-valiant names,
Whose memories their country's are, and fame's.
Read from your starry roll-call, one by one,
And match their proudest champions, son for son.
Not always they who claim the numerous host,
Or haughtiest volume, can the victory boast.
The broad Phillistine beamed disdainful ire,
But, mark the sequel ! David slew Goliah.
The bulkiest bins dispense not sweetest food,
But are themselves recipients of good.

She, who would fain consult the general weal,
With little leaven, leavened all the meal.

Where wide-mouthed fountains 'tween their close-shut teeth
Hiss the swift spray that stirs the pool beneath,
Enter the hall where power and beauty vie
To conquer fame, in generous rivalry ;
Where Afrie's diamonds lose their yellow stains,
And massive tusks unbend in shining chains ;
Where Asia's wools cast down their whitest plumes
To pave the chambers of ennobling looms ;
Where Europe's vaunted, legendary steel
Is rolled in ribbons on the polished reel ;
Where States and Countries of this Western Land
Their wealth contribute with unsparing hand,
And, as the hammer falls, or shuttle flies
Change crude creations to rare symmetries :
There, where ten thousand wheels are swiftly whirled
Rhode Island's engine drives the harnessed world.

This is the Nation's hour. From sea to sea
Floats the proud Flag, the emblem of the Free ;
Which, nor in foreign, nor in civil war,
Has never lost, shall never lose, a star.
Come Carolina, for the feast is spread ;
Advance with patriot will, with loyal tread !
We clasp the hand that you in love extend ;
Ours the embrace of no uncertain friend.
Come, as of old you came, and nevermore
Raise your rebellion on Columbia's shore !
For, by the echo of that dreadful blow
By Cataline dealt, received by Cicero ;
By those sad Meceas sought by Christian feet

Where annual garlands deck each green retreat,
By those dear graves with Memory's tear-drops wet
We will forgive, we never will forget.

What is the moral of the passing hour?
Reform is Education's practised power.
No sect, no people, can be truly free,
Who have not earned the right to liberty.
What claim has he, or black, or brown, or white,
To vote the ballot that he cannot write?
Of what avail the politicians' creed
Before the eyes of him who cannot read?
Save by the doubtful lore of hearsay sense,
What can he know of valued evidence?
Why Colon crossed the wave, why Adams spoke,
Why Lawrence fell, why Lincoln bondage broke?

Men are born equal,—so the record reads
That chronicles of George the naughty deeds,
And claims th' Almighty improvised the strain,—
But did He promise they should so remain?
'T is not with *babies* that opinion deals,
But *men* who make their marks, or set their seals.
Is he whose soul is soiled by murderous taint,
Or larceny's stain, the equal of the saint?
The man of golden, he of brazen fame,
Because they both were born, are both the same?
We quote high precedent for jealous rule
That bars the impious knave, the drivelling fool;
“Not every one that crieth ‘Lord,’” shall come
To know the splendors of the immortals' home.

The folded banner may not float again
With maudlin motto, “Principles *not* Men.”

'Ye men of age, ye men of vigorous youth,
The principle of principles, is Truth!
Whence shall that principle its power derive,
Save from its index representative?
Say that the worlds in heavenly order roll,
But what were order did not God control?

Reform is patient, or 't is nothing worth.
God made not in one day sun, sea and earth.
Not he who fractures, the reformer is,
But he whose wisdom binds the unities.
Not the bold woman, who unsexes life,
But she who works the love that conquers strife.

In this, the Nation's grand Centennial hour
'T is well you act your part and feel your power;
Mature and strong, it is her franchise now
Before no majesty of earth to bow.
No might prevails her steadfast will to move,
Fixed in the justice of her parent love.
While each maintains an independent tone
Her several States combine to act as one;
Each wears distinction's laurel, each makes claim
For separate cause, to bear an honored name.
Men of Rhode Island! in this new-born age,
Prize at its worth your glorious heritage;
With grateful hearts, with conscious pride elate
Remember, yours was Roger Williams' State!
And, in the truth that God and men approve,
Revere the emblems of her holy love;
Her radiant band about her anchor twine,
Her Hope supernal, and her Faith divine.

THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE.

MUNICIPAL CELEBRATION, JULY 4TH, 1876.

ORDER OF EXERCISES

AT THE FIRST BAPTIST MEETING HOUSE.

MUSIC BY HERRICK'S BRIGADE BAND.

PRAYER BY REV. E. H. JOHNSON, OF THE BROWN ST. BAPTIST CHURCH.

SINGING BY THE CHOIR.

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF E. K. GLEZEN, ESQ.

"O come hither and behold the works of the Lord."

READING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE,

By Master GEORGE W. FIELD, of the Providence High School.

SINGING BY THE CHOIR, "THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER."

ORATION,

BY HON. SAMUEL G. ARNOLD.

MUSIC BY HERRICK'S BRIGADE BAND.

POEM,

BY GEORGE W. PETTES, ESQ.

SINGING BY THE CHOIR, "WHITTIER'S CENTENNIAL HYMN."

Music by JOHN K. PAINE.

(As sung at the opening of the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia.)

Our Father's God! from out whose hand	Thou who hast here in concord furled
The centuries fall like grains of sand!	The war flags of a gathered world,
We meet to-day, united, free,	Beneath our western skies fulfill
And loyal to our land and Thee,	The Orient's mission of good will,
To thank Thee for the era done,	And freighted with love's golden fleece,
And trust Thee for the opening one.	send back the Argonauts of peace.

Here where of old by Thy design,	For art and labor meet in true.
The fathers spake that word of Thine	For beauty made the bride of use.
Whose echo is the glad refrain	We thank Thee, while withal we crave,
Of rounded bolt and falling chain.	The austere virtues strong to save,
To grace our festal time and all	The honor proof to place or gold,
The zones of earth our guests we call.	The manhood never bought or sold!

Be with us while the New World greets	Oh make Thou us through centuries long,
The Old World thronging all its streets,	In peace serene, and justice strong;
Unveiling all the triumphs won	Around our gift of freedom draw
By art or toil beneath the sun;	The safeguards of Thy righteous law,
And unto common good ordain	And cast in some diviner mould,
This rivalry of hand and brain.	Let the new cycle shame the old.

BENEDICTION.

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